

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A disc cartridge comprising:

a disc; and

a main cartridge body unit including an upper cartridge portion and a lower cartridge portion, the main cartridge body unit having said disc rotatably housed therein and including:

a recording and/or reproducing aperture ~~with a sufficient depth for exposing~~ formed into the lower cartridge portion that exposes a portion of said disc to outside across inner and outer rims of said disc, the recording and/or reproducing aperture defining a first side of the lower cartridge portion and a second side of the lower cartridge portion, and

an entrance part for a head unit ~~provided to of~~ a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, said entrance part being a recess which is formed in continuation the first side of the lower cartridge portion and extending to said recording and/or reproducing aperture, for entrance of at least a portion of said head unit below an outer surface of the lower cartridge portion,

wherein a lateral surface of said entrance part for said head unit is an inclined surface for inhibiting abutment against said head part, and

wherein a depth of said entrance part is less than ~~said depth of said recording and/or reproducing aperture~~ a thickness of the first side of the lower cartridge portion so as to not expose another portion of the disc located adjacent to the recess to the outside.

Claims 16-17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (previously presented): The disc cartridge according to claim 15 wherein said inclined surface is formed on an opposite side to a side continuing to said recording and/or reproducing aperture.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (currently amended): The disc cartridge according to claim ~~19-15~~ further comprising

a shutter unit for opening/closing said recording and/or reproducing aperture, wherein said entrance part for said head unit is formed in a surface on which slides said shutter unit in continuation to said recording and/or reproducing aperture.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The disc cartridge according to claim 20 wherein a bent part for closing a space produced between a shutter member of said shutter unit and said entrance part for said head unit when said shutter unit has been moved to a position of closing said recording and/or reproducing aperture is formed on one side of the shutter member closing said recording and/or reproducing aperture.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The disc cartridge according to claim 18 wherein a recessed shutter slide part is formed in an area of a surface of said main cartridge body unit, on which slides a shutter member, and wherein said entrance part for said head unit is formed as a recess of a depth deeper than the depth of said shutter slide part.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A recording and/or reproducing apparatus comprising a disc;

a main cartridge body unit including an upper cartridge portion and a lower cartridge portion, the main cartridge body unit having said disc rotatably housed therein and including a recording and/or reproducing aperture with a sufficient depth for exposing formed into the lower cartridge portion that exposes a portion of said disc to outside across inner and outer rims of said disc, the recording and/or reproducing aperture defining a first side of the lower cartridge portion and a second side of the lower cartridge portion;

a cartridge loading unit for loading a disc cartridge thereon, said disc cartridge including a recess formed in continuation the first side of the lower cartridge portion and extending to said recording and/or reproducing aperture; and

recording and/or reproducing means for recording and/or reproducing the information for the disc housed in said disc cartridge,

wherein when said recording and/or reproducing means is introduced via said recording and/or reproducing aperture for recording and/or reproducing the information for said disc, a portion of said recording and/or reproducing means is introduced into said recess and below an outer surface of the lower cartridge portion,

wherein a lateral surface of said recess is an inclined surface for inhibiting abutment against the portion of said recording and/or reproducing means, and

wherein a depth of said recess is less than a thickness of the first side of the lower cartridge portion ~~said depth of said recording and/or reproducing aperture so as to not expose another portion of the disc located adjacent to the recess to the outside.~~

Claim 24 (previously presented): The recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said recording and/or reproducing means is composed of an objective lens and an optical block, and wherein

when said objective lens is introduced via said recording and/or reproducing aperture for recording and/or reproducing the information for said disc, said optical block is introduced into said recess.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): A disc cartridge comprising:

a disc; and

a main cartridge body unit having said disc rotatably housed therein and including a recording and/or reproducing aperture for exposing a portion of said disc to outside across inner and outer rims of said disc; wherein

the portion of said recording and/or reproducing aperture along the outer rim of said main cartridge body unit is opened by being formed with a cut-out formed in a wall of the main cartridge body unit and extending in a direction along the thickness of said disc.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The disc cartridge according to claim 25 wherein said cut-out is formed to a height at least equal to a thickness of a surface of the main cartridge body.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The disc cartridge according to claim 25 wherein said cut-out is formed so that, when a recording and/or reproducing means of a recording and/or reproducing apparatus is introduced into said recording and/or reproducing aperture for recording and/or reproduction in the vicinity of the outer rim of said disc, part of said recording and/or reproducing means is located outside of said main cartridge body unit.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The disc cartridge according to claim 25 wherein the inserting lateral side of said main cartridge body unit into a recording and/or reproducing apparatus is a substantially semicircular arcuate section, having a center corresponding to a center of the disc housed in said main cartridge body unit, and wherein said recording and/or reproducing aperture is formed facing to a lateral side of said main cartridge body unit other than said inserting lateral side arcuate in profile.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The recording and/or reproducing apparatus of Claim 23 wherein said inclined surface is formed on an opposite side to a side continuing to said recording and/or reproducing aperture.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The disc cartridge of Claim 25 wherein a lateral surface of said recording and/or reproducing aperture is an inclined surface for inhibiting abutment against a recording and/or reproducing means of a recording and/or reproducing apparatus.